



**Name of Event: [Side Event] Hyogo Hardtalk – The Challenge of Local Partnerships for DRR**

**Date of Event: May 10, 2011**

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**Organizer: BOND Disaster Risk Reduction Group**

## **1) Outline**

The audience asked the following questions of the panellists:

- How can we improve local risk governance?
- How can we raise the profile of DRR in media and political circles?
- How do we address underlying risk factors, particularly land reforms?
- How can change be driven from the bottom up?
- How do we incorporate appropriate expert knowledge?
- Our approach isn't succeeding in bringing stakeholders together – do we need to change?
- Are donors interested in funding DRR rather than relief?

## **2) Key messages, outcomes, recommendations**

- Stakeholders brought together for DRR partnerships often have never met before; we need to overcome lack of trust and power differentials.
- Communities should be genuine partner - not just beneficiaries. Technical professionals provide essential knowledge (e.g. on climate uncertainties), but must engage communities as equal partners.
- We need to create social demand for DRR; where advocacy is insufficient to build demand, start working on DRR in recent disaster sites where demand is naturally high.
- What is missing is institutional leadership with the authority to implement and enforce DRR, not just champion and advocate it.

- As referenced in the BOND issue papers, HFA4 is the big missing factor – we need more focus on reducing underlying risk factors. In particular, we need more focus on equitable land rights, including traditional land tenure systems.

### **3) Conclusions**

- Governments should seek to build local partnerships because of their concrete benefits: enhancing government capacity and outreach, sharing costs, improving sustainability, and creating a forum for effective advocacy.
- Interestingly, government speakers – both donors and DRR practitioners – requested advocacy from others, to enable them to push for more effective progressive work and be held to account. Yet people can only lobby and pressure their government when they know their rights; there needs to be more emphasis on education and information that DRR is a right.
- There is a need for a sea change in funding for DRR – there should be solid commitments in donor’s development and humanitarian budgets, and in national budgets and PRSPs. Donors should promote partnership, by only funding DRR projects where there is genuine partnership between key stakeholders.